

Gov. Harry W. Nice Building
Eastern Shore State Hospital
Dorchester County, Maryland
Survey No. D-719

**GOV. HARRY W. NICE BUILDING
EASTERN SHORE STATE HOSPITAL**

HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:	Eastern Shore
Chronological/Development Period(s):	Modern Period
Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):	Not Applicable
Resource Type:	
Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):	Mental Hospital: Patient Housing
Known Design Source:	Henry Powell Hopkins

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. D-719

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Gov. Harry W. Nice Building - Eastern Shore State Hospital

and/or common Nice Building

2. Location

street & number 5530 West Shore Drive ☐ not for publication

city, town Cambridge ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Dorchester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition:	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: health care/hospital

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name State of Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

street & number 201 West Preston Street telephone no.: 410-767-6500

city, town Baltimore state and zip code Maryland 21201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Courthouse liber

street & number 206 High Street folio

city, town Cambridge state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. D-719

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Gov. Harry W. Nice Building is a 2-1/2 story Shavian manorial style building constructed in 1938 as a dormitory for the Eastern Shore State Hospital. Designed by Henry Powell Hopkins, this steel-frame building features a Flemish bond brick 1st story, a half-timbered 2nd story, and a hipped slate roof punctuated by dormers. Large, two-story glazed sun porches flank each end of this rectangular building. Nice Building closely resembles Carey Building, designed in 1935 by Henry Powell Hopkins.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Gov. Harry W. Nice Building is a 2-1/2 story Shavian manorial style building that faces north to the Choptank River. The steel and reinforced concrete building is sited along the east/west axis of the Administration Building, constructed in 1926. Although Nice is rectangular in plan, the central pavilion projects slightly from side wings. This treatment breaks up the massing of the long building and creates a more complex profile for the prominent, hipped slate roof. Grouped gabled dormers extend around the roof. Louvred ventilators topped by hipped copper roofs extend above the side wings. The ventilator on the east still retains its finial and lightning rod; the finial on the west is missing. The building sits on a full basement lit by full-size windows opening onto large areaways that function as light wells. Large glazed sun porches extend out from the side wings of the building. The sun porches are topped with a balustrade screening a flat roof.

Nice Building has two entrances on both the north and south facades. These entrances are located at either end of the central pavilion and are housed within stone surrounds. The splayed, rectangular surrounds have arched openings supported by compound columns. Trefoils are placed to either side of the arch. All of the original doors have been replaced. Windows on the 1st and 2nd stories have multiple pane sash with 20 over 25 lights. Basement windows are 20 over 14 and dormer windows, 8 over 12. The building features fine exterior finishes and a wealth of architectural detail that echoes the vocabulary of the earlier Mess Hall Building and virtually duplicates Carey Building. The brick 1st story and watertable are detailed in Flemish bond brick with randomly glazed headers. There is a shoulder course at the top of the watertable and a soldier course above the watertable. The 2nd story, which is demarcated by a molded wood stringcourse, is detailed with vertical half-timbering with diagonal bracing at the ends of the side wings and central pavilion. A frame paneled dado between paneled pilasters articulates the sun porches. With the exception of exterior stair corridors and fire escapes and changes to entrances, the exterior of the building has been little changed.

Architectural drawings reveal the original floor plan of the 1st and 2nd floors of the building. Between the two entrances on the north were an office, two "strong rooms" or isolation chambers, and a hydrotherapy room. The office opened onto the entry hall on the east. A dining room and two nurses stations were located across the corridor. Two open patient wards with associated toilet and bath facilities occupied the side wings. The architectural drawings show 28 beds in each ward. The axis of the corridor was maintained within the open space. Large, open day rooms were located in the sun

porches at either end of the building. The 2nd floor plan was virtually identical to the 1st floor with the addition of two additional "strong rooms" on the north side of the building. The basement presently consists of full-height open plan space and appears little altered. The 3rd floor, which was originally used for housing attendants, consisted of small rooms disposed to either side of the long corridor.

The building has been altered to adapt it into laboratory and classroom space. The 1st floor dining room presently serves as a laboratory. A corridor has been installed through the center of the 1st floor wards and laboratories and offices constructed to either side of the new corridor. The configuration and finishes of the 2nd floor have been almost completely obliterated in its conversion to classroom space. Both sun porches, however, remain virtually intact. The present plan of the 3rd floor is probably close to the original floor plan since attendants' rooms were easily adapted to office space. Finishes throughout the building are recent and consist of dropped acoustic ceiling, concrete and glazed block, recent paneling, and carpet.

8. Significance

Survey No. D-719

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1938 Builder/Architect Henry Powell Hopkins

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gov. Harry W. Nice Building, constructed in 1938, is virtually identical to the Dr. Charles J. Carey Building, completed two years earlier. These two buildings, designed by Baltimore architect Henry Powell Hopkins, were the first purpose-built dormitories at the Eastern Shore State Hospital. Nice Building is a good example of the Shavian manorial style, the architectural idiom that characterizes the early 20th century buildings at the hospital. Nice Building contributes to the significance of the historic core of the Eastern Shore State Hospital.

NARRATIVE HISTORY

Since the founding of the Eastern Shore State Hospital in 1912, its patients were housed in a building designed as a Mess Hall. For over 20 years, the patients lived in open dormitory rooms that had been adapted from space originally designed as dining rooms and dayrooms. In 1935 ground was broken for the 100 bed Dr. Charles J. Carey Building, which remained unoccupied after its completion in 1936 because the state would not provide funds for its operations.¹ Nice was the second purpose-built dormitory constructed at the hospital.

Nice was constructed as part of a \$1,124,000 hospital construction program for the state hospital system. The federal Public Works Administration provided \$475,000, the state, \$635,000. The new dormitory at Eastern Shore was allocated \$180,000 of this sum.² Architectural drawings show that prominent Baltimore architect Henry Powell Hopkins produced plans for the building in December 1937. James Posey was consulting engineer.³ Hopkins, a prominent Baltimore architect had previously designed the Administration Building (Survey No. D-715) and Carey (Survey No. D-718) as well as numerous other buildings at other state mental institutions. In 1940 his firm designed the Physician's Cottage West (Survey No. D-720) at Eastern Shore. More information about Hopkins may be found in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Sites Form for the Administration Building (Survey

¹Thomas M. O'Neill, "Nice Proposes Bond Issue for State's Insane, *Evening Sun*, October 2, 1936.

²"Mental Hospital Projects Advance," *Sun*, Dec. 19, 1937.

³Henry Powell Hopkins, Drawing M-3, Dec. 16, 1937.

No. D-715). Bids were opened on December 30, 1937 and construction began in January 1938.⁴ The Gov. Harry W. Nice Building was presumably complete by December 1938 when a newspaper article noted that it remained unoccupied because of insufficient funds for its operation.⁵

Like the original 1913-1915 buildings designed by Parker, Thomas & Rice and the 1936-1938 Carey Building, Nice employs the Shavian manorial style that characterizes the historic core of the Eastern Shore State Hospital. The exterior of Nice, which was designed when Kenneth D. Jones was superintendent, is virtually identical to that of Carey, which was designed under Dr. Charles J. Carey, the first superintendent of the institution. There are three important differences, all of which improved the functional utility of the building. First, Nice was designed with a basement lit by full size windows. Large areaways on the north and south facade serve as light wells for the basement. Second, Carey originally had small glazed sun porches, now enclosed, at either end of the building. The porches at Nice, which still remain, are roughly triple the size of the porches on Carey and a more appropriate size for dayroom use. Third, instead of Carey's prominent chimneys that echo the tall chimneys of the 1913-1915 buildings, Nice features two large ventilators, a more functional addition than the decorative chimneys.

The interior of Nice displayed a highly organized, well conceived plan. On the 1st and 2nd floors Nice had a central core running roughly between the two stairs located by each of the doors. The core had a large dining room with five banquet-type tables, two nurses stations (one for each ward), a small service kitchen, linen closets, two isolation chambers, and a room for hydrotherapy. There was an office on the 1st floor by the entrance and a reception room on the 2nd. The size of the kitchen and the equipment depicted suggest that most of the food preparation probably took place in the Kitchen Building and was then transferred to Nice. Open wards housing 28 beds each were placed to either side of the core. These wards led into the large glazed dayrooms. Toilet facilities and baths were placed between the wards and the dayrooms. Features shared by the wards were thus placed at the center of the building. Isolation chambers, or strong rooms, and facilities for hydrotherapy were separated from the patients' quarters. The doctor's office on the 1st floor and the reception area on the 2nd floor could be entered directly from the entrance and stair hall without requiring access to the wards, which were presumably locked. No plans survive for the 3rd floor. This relatively intact floor consisted of small rooms, which would have housed staff and attendants, disposed about a central corridor.

The absence of the original plans for Carey make it difficult to compare the interiors of the two buildings. While plans of Carey dating to 1964 may contain added partitions, the configuration of linen closet walls and the location of isolation rooms suggest that Carey had multiple smaller wards and rooms and that Carey's core was less well articulated than that of Nice. Further research into the original plan of Carey should be conducted to trace the evolution of the dormitory building type at the Eastern Shore State Hospital.

⁴"Mental Hospital Projects Advance," *Sun*, Dec. 19, 1937.

⁵"Machinery Placed in State Hospital," *Sun*, Dec. 25, 1938.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. D-719

Please see Continuation Sheets.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Cambridge, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see Continuation Sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betty Bird

organization Betty Bird & Associates

date August 15, 1997

street & number 2607 24th Street, NW, Suite 3

telephone 202-588-9033

city or town Washington, D.C. 20008

state

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Board of Managers, Eastern Shore State Hospital of Maryland. *Biennial and Triennial Reports*, 1913-1915, 1915-1917, 1917-1919, 1919-1921, 1921-1923, 1923-1926, 1926-1928, (two missing), 1932-1934. (Eastern Shore Hospital Center Archives)
- Board of Managers, Eastern Shore State Hospital of Maryland. Minutes, 1922-1939. (Eastern Shore Hospital Center Archives)
- Board of Mental Hygiene, State of Maryland. *Biennial Reports*, 1934-1936, 1936-1938, 1938-1940, 1942, 1944. (Eastern Shore Hospital Center Archives)
- Dr. Charles J. Carey to Eastern Shore State Hospital Board of Managers, April 5, 1935. (Eastern Shore State Hospital Board of Managers Minutes, Eastern Shore Hospital Center Archives)
- Department of Public Improvements of the State of Maryland. *Report for the Period July 1, 1947 to December 31, 1949*. Baltimore, Maryland: January 1950 (Maryland Room, EPFL)
- "Eastern Shore Hospital Diary, 29 November 1922 thru 15 April 1937." (Eastern Shore Hospital Center Archives)
- Eglinton, Karen E. "Guide to the Papers of Henry Powell Hopkins." Historical Manuscripts and Archives Department, University of Maryland at College Park Libraries, June 1990. (Collection of Peter Kurtze, Maryland Historical Trust)
- Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works. Contract, State File No. Md. 1023. (Eastern Shore State Hospital Board Minutes, Eastern Shore Hospital Center Archives)
- Hopkins, Henry Powell, Architectural Drawings for New Dormitory Building. (Maryland General Services Administration)
- "Machinery Placed in State Hospital" in *Sun*, December 25, 1938.
- "Mental Hospital Projects Advance" in *Sun*, December 19, 1937.
- Norton, Howard M. *Maryland's Shame*. Baltimore: *Sun* papers, reprinted from Baltimore Sunday *Sun* and *Evening Sun*, January, 1949.
- O'Neill, Thomas M. "Nice Proposes Bond Issue for State's Insane," *Evening Sun*, October 2, 1936.
- Photographs. (Eastern Shore Hospital Center Archives)
- "Program Outlined to Care for Insane," *Sun*, January 20, 1937.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses the peninsula that includes the historic buildings and their setting. The project area consists of the peninsula bounded by the Choptank River on the north and Shoal Creek on the west and south. The eastern boundary extends along Shoal Creek to a point approximately 300 ft. upstream from the Power House and Laundry. The boundary then proceeds in an arc roughly ENE to the intersection of West Shore Drive (Maryland Route 479) and Point Drive. The boundary then proceeds roughly WNW to the Choptank River in an arc on the north and east side of West Shore Drive. The intersection of the eastern boundary of the project area and the Choptank River is directly north of the east facade of the Dr. Charles J. Carey Building (Survey No. D-718).

Gov. Harry W. Nice Building
Eastern Shore State Hospital
Dorchester County, Maryland
Survey No. D-719

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

View of Nice Building from NW, September 20, 1938 (Source: Eastern Shore State Hospital Archives)

View of Nice Building from SW, September 20, 1938 (Source: Eastern Shore State Hospital Archives)

Original Floor Plan, Second Floor (Source: Henry Powell Hopkins, Architectural Drawings for New
Dormitory Building, December 16, 1937, Maryland General Services Administration)



September 20, 1938
Hicks Photographer

D-719



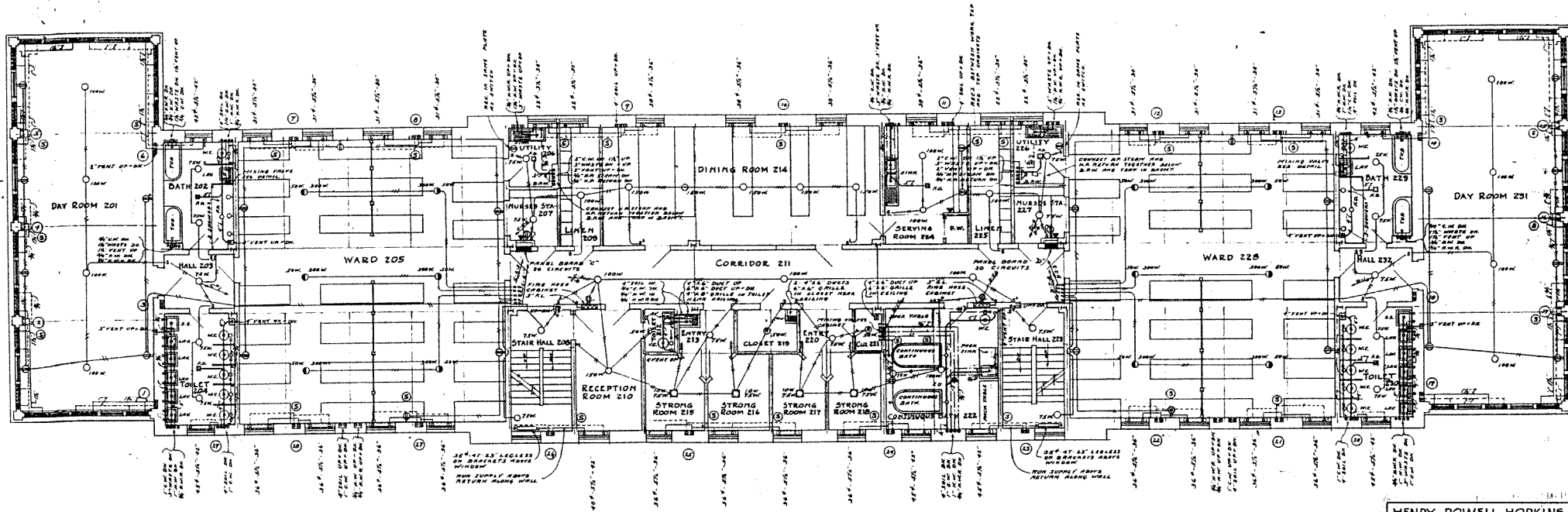
Sept. 20, 1938
Hicks Photographer

D-719

Gov. Harry W. Nice Building
Eastern Shore State Hospital
Dorchester County, Maryland
Survey No. D-719

IS FOR HEATING AND PLUMBING AND ELECTRIC
KESSES FOR CONVECTORS ON SECOND FLOOR SHALL BE 2" HIGH
NOT MORE THAN 86" DEEP, MAXIMUM WIDTH 4'0".
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4134 AND INSTALL AS DIRECTED HOW CONNECTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE
KINGING UP OF THE FOLLOWING ROOMS - 202, 204, 206, 221, 224, 226, 219, 230.
RECEPTACLES SHALL BE PLACED ON SAME
LEVEL WITH LIGHTING OUTLETS.

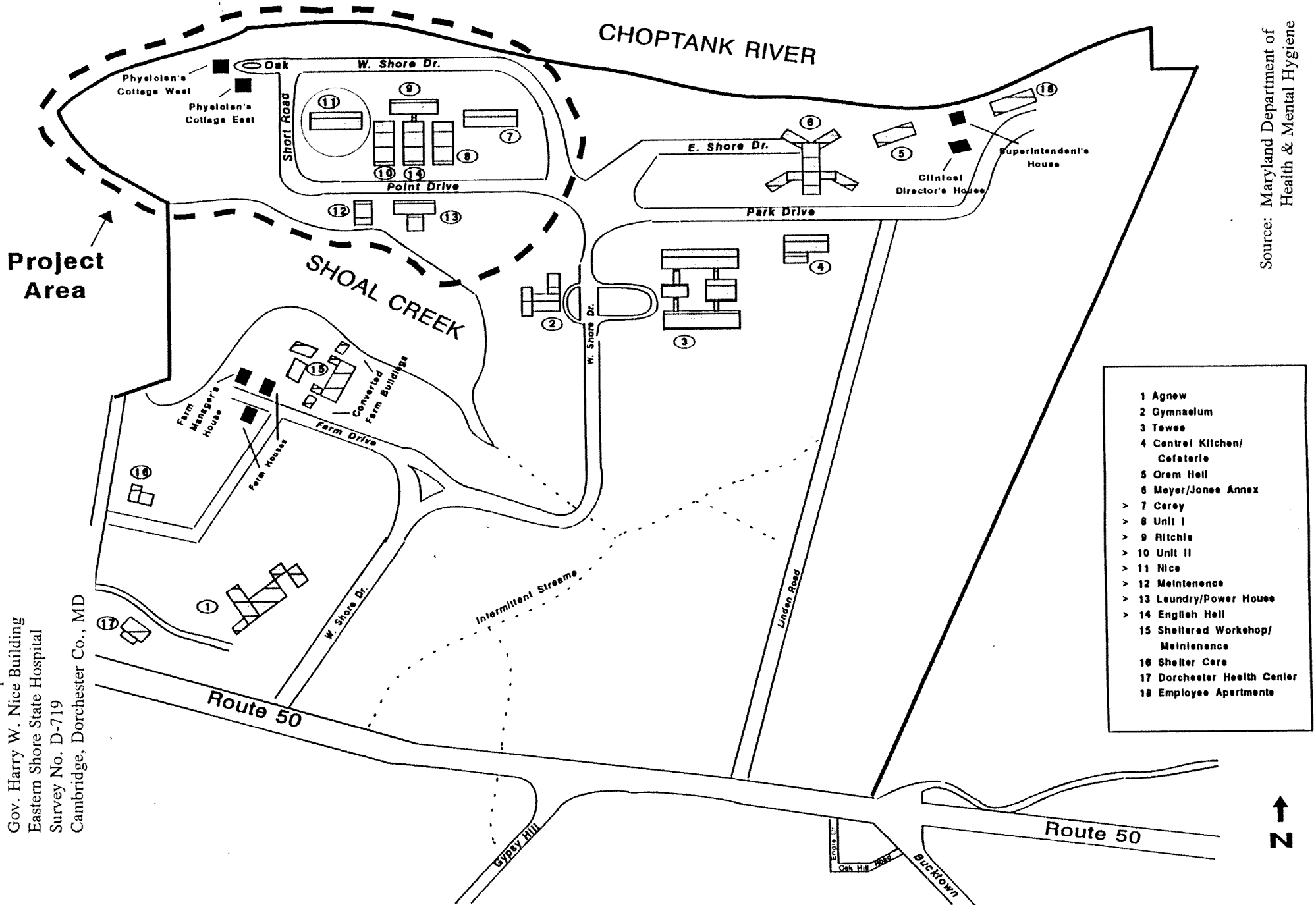
SWITCH
S₄ FOUR POINT SWITCH
S_p SWITCH WITH PILOT LIGHT
▲ TELEPHONE



SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

HENRY POWELL HOPKINS ARCHITECT 10 E. MULBERRY ST. BALTIMORE, MD.	
JOB No. 152	DRAWING
DATE DEC 16, 1957	NO. 152

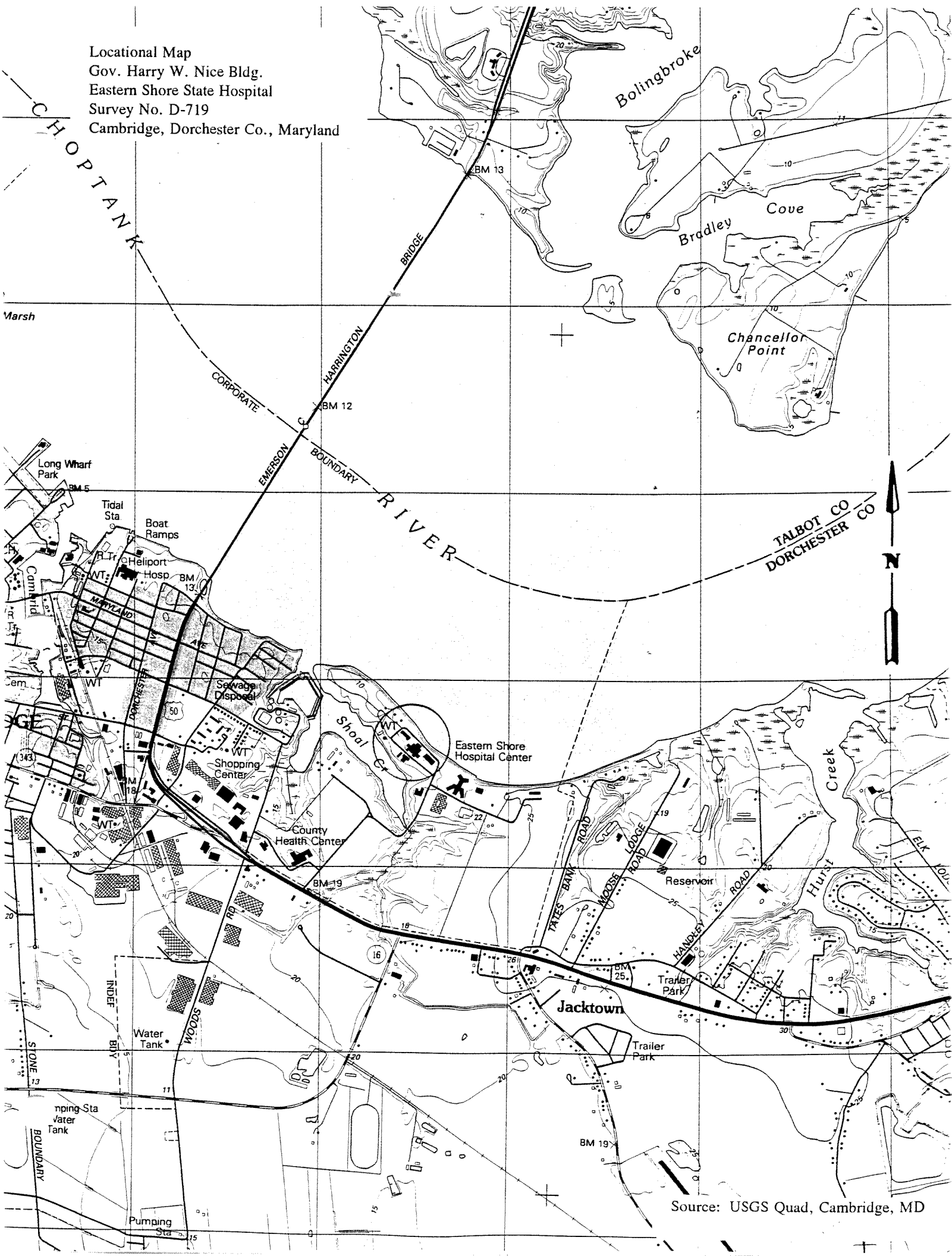
Resource Sketch Map
 Gov. Harry W. Nice Building
 Eastern Shore State Hospital
 Survey No. D-719
 Cambridge, Dorchester Co., MD



Source: Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

Eastern Shore Hospital Center

Locational Map
 Gov. Harry W. Nice Bldg.
 Eastern Shore State Hospital
 Survey No. D-719
 Cambridge, Dorchester Co., Maryland



Source: USGS Quad, Cambridge, MD



1-7-97

NICE BUDG - S'S STATE HOSPITAL
CAMBRIDGE, MD.

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

JULY 1997

MD SUPD

N FACADE

1 OF 10

1997 3/28/98 1-7-97



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FACE BUDG - ES SAINT HOSPITAL
CAMBRIDGE, MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

JULY 1947

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VIEW FROM NE

2 OF 10

2701 7th St. NW



2-719

NICH. BODH. IS STATE HOSPITAL
CAMBRIDGE, MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

JULY 1997

MD SUPO

VIEW FROM SW

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ME: 10/10/1997



D-719

NICE BLDG - ES STATE HOSPITAL

CAMBRIDGE, MD

BETTY BIRD

JULY 1997

MD SHPO

S FACADE FROM SE

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SEE 1. 10.18.10.11



D-719

NCE BLDG - E'S STATE HOSPITAL

CAMBRIDGE, MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

JULY 1997

MD SHPO

RECEIVED

DETAIL OF EAST SUN ROOM FROM NE

5 OF 10



D-719

NICE BLDG - E S STATE HOSPITAL

CAMBRIDGE, MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

JULY 1997

MD SHPO

ENTRY, N FACADE

6 OF 10

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NICE BLDG. - E S STATE HOSPITAL

CAMBRIDGE, MD

PHOTO. BETTY BIRD

JULY 1997

IND S HPO

SR 2 11 10554 1071

BASEMENT FROM NW

7 OF 10



D-719

NICE BLDG- E S STATE HOSPITAL

CAMBRIDGE, MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

JULY 1997

MD SHPO

1ST FLOOR CORRIDOR

8 OF 10

10/10/2001



DATA

112. BIRD - 1.5. 1997 - 1.5. 1997

EDMUNDSON, MD

PHOTO - BIRDY BIRD

JULY 1997

MD SHPO

EAST SUN ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, FROM S

9 OF 10

13. 1997 - 1.5. 1997



2-719

NICE BUG IS STATE HOSPITAL

CAMBRIDGE, MD

PHOTO: BETTY BIRD

JULY 1997

MD SHPO

3RD FLOOR BATHROOM

10 OF 10

10

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